

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry
Organization: ttl-architects
Date (month / year): March 2010

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

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Town: Tewksbury

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Address: 219 River Road

Historic Name: Widow Bailey House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residential

Original: Single Family Residential

Date of Construction: c1832

Source: Deed Research

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Front Porch (late 20th Century)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no | X | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 1.21 acres

Setting: Located in a formerly rural area developed in the second half of the 20th century as a suburban residential area.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

219 RIVER ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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___ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The five by one bay dwelling at **219 River Road** is a one-and-a-half story dwelling. The rectangular dwelling rests on a granite foundation. A small one-story addition projects from the southeast corner of the dwelling. The centrally located entrance is flanked by half-height multi pane sidelights and protected by a small gable front porch. The walls are clad in vinyl siding. The side gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. Windows are primarily 1/1 replacement sash windows, except on the gable ends where there are paired 1/1 replacement sash windows. Windows are flanked by shutters.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Known locally as the Widow Bailey House, the Greek Revival house was built c1832 for George and Esther Bailey. George Bailey was the son of James & Lucy Bailey of Andover. George and his brother Charles bought the property from Samuel Rogers in 1832. George Bailey died 1860-1868 and his widow remained in the house. In 1868 the widow and her brother-in-law sold 110-acres of farmland on the north side of the road extending to the Merrimack River to Susan Foster, the wife of John T Foster. The Bailey's retained the house and the widow leased her brother-in-law's half interest in the house. In 1881, the house south of the road was sold to John E Foster, the son of Susan and John T Foster.

In 1925 the Foster's son, John E, and his wife Elizabeth sold the house and three acres of the Bailey estate to Cyril Barker. Cyril became a police officer for the Town of Tewksbury in 1929 and served as the chief of police 1934-1952. He and his wife Jane lived in the house on River Road with their three children, Cyril's mother Ada, and his brother Eric, a WWI veteran who died in 1932. The Tewksbury Historical Society has a collection of newspaper articles and photographs of Chief Barker. In 1947 Jane and Cyril gave ½ acre of land to their son Gerald and his wife for a home.

Additional owners include: Jane & Cyril Barker (1925-1984); Gerald Barker, John Barker, & Gwendolyn Goddard, heirs of Jane & Cyril Barker (1984-1986); and John & Paul Sullivan (1986-2009).

C1875-1940s River Road was known as Lawrence Street. In the 1948-1965 the house had a two-car garage and a hen-house.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- U.S. Census Records. 1790-1930.
- Directories. 1896-97, 1898-99, 1900-01, 1911-12, 1913-14, 1915-16, 1919, 1927, 1930-31, 1932-33, 1937-38, 1940-41, 1942-1943, 1949 [Ancestry], 1953, 1955, 1961, and 1967.
- Map of the Town of Tewksbury 1852. Henry F Walling. Boston, MA.
- 1865 Map of Tewkesbury with inset.
- Atlas of Middlesex County 1875. FW Beers.
- Atlas of Middlesex County 1889. Geo H Walker & Co.
- List of Residents by Streets, Ages 17 years and over, In the Town of Tewksbury Mass. As prepared by the Board of Registrars (various years 1965-)
- Valuations of the Real and Personal Estate of the Town of Tewksbury.
- North Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.
- _____. *Ye Towne Book*. Town of Tewksbury. 1934.
- Patton, Harold J. *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*. Higginson Book Co. 1964.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY 219 RIVER ROAD

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Widow Bailey House From Patton's *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*. c1964.

